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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANTS: Francois Spertini  
 SERIAL NUMBER: 09/506,978 EXAMINER: Phuong N. Huynh  
 FILING DATE: February 18, 2000 ART UNIT: 1644  
 FOR: NOVEL BEE VENOM POLYPEPTIDES AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Transmitted herewith for filing in the present application are the following documents:

1. Response to Final Office Action mailed December 19, 2003 (6 pgs.); and
2. Return Postcard.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at telephone (617) 542-6000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0311 (Reference No. 20349-543).

Respectfully submitted,

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 Attorney for Applicants  
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Dated: February 3, 2004

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 19, 2003 FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This paper is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 19, 2003.

Applicants are filing this Amendment and Reply within the shortened statutory period set to expire on February 19, 2003; therefore, no fees are due. Specifically, Applicants are filing this Reply within two-months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311 (Reference No. 20349-543). Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.